CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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the war; perhaps they had been married to Soviets. They did not know where the Volga-Germans had been deported, but men, women, and children had been separated during the deportation action.

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3. As far as party members were concerned, they simply had no opinions of their own. They learned what the Party told them and that is all they knew or were expected to know. They believed that all information was false which contradicted the current party line

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Soviet engineer/ expressed particular pride in numerous aspects or achievements of Soviet society They were proud that the USSR had won the war and had won it alone. No credit was given to the western allies for their victory were proud of their industrialization, of the fact that they were moving forward technologically and would soon be equal to the West in terms of industrial power. Then, too, they were proud of the indisputable political victories which the Soviet Union has achieved since the war. And, finally, they expressed pride in such basic aspects of Soviet society as planned economy, state ownership of industry, equal employment rights for women, and full employment. However, these latter points were considered closed issues, established facts

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- Soviet employees at Plant No. 2 complained mostly about living conditions; about unavailability of goods, their poor quality and high prices, inadequate housing, poor transportation, and low pay.
- 6. The young Soviet engineers at Plant No. 2, all of whom were party members, stood up with burning eyes and applauded furiously at the mention of Stalin's name. They were sincerely convinced of Stalin's greatness as portrayed in Soviet propaganda. As far as the average worker was concerned, it was all the same to him who was dictator, whether he was called Stalin, Schultz, or what have you. They knew that, when Stalin dies, there will be another one to take his place.
- 7. It was difficult to say whether the Soviet population really believed that their elections were at all significant. However, to judge from the pride and joy which many of them showed in going to polling places on election day, the average Soviet at least had no conception of any other type of election and considered the Soviet election system to be perfectly normal.

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8. From the point of view of party members, every act of the Soviet Government in the field of foreign policy was correct. This viewpoint, of course, was emphasized time and time again in Soviet information media and the local training programs and was accepted without reservation by engineers at Plant No. 2. Any other interpretation would have been beyond their understanding.

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9. Furthermore, Soviet in the designing office denied the existence of the "iron curtain", denied the policy of isolation imposed on itself by the Soviet state. However, for this question they had a seemingly logical though standard answer. They argued that if a Soviet citizen wishes to accept employment abroad, he is free to do so. However, this is impossible in capitalist countries, where misguided men are in power who would never give a job to a Communist. They admitted that foreigners are not granted free access to the Soviet Union, explaining that it would soon be flooded with hostile elements, if this were the case. Persons of good will, with correct political viewpoints, are not only although to enter the Soviet Union but are invited to do so by the Soviet Government. According to these party members, the Soviet Union is no different from any other country, as no nation allows hostile elements to cross its borders.

11.

12. The longing for peace on the part of the average Soviet cliizen is not only written about in Soviet propaganda but also is an established fact. No Soviets were in favor of another war. All feared the possibility of a world conflict. Everyone was scuttely conscious of the starvation, poverty, military service, and death which had resulted from the last conflict. However, this does not mean that the average Soviet citizen would not march along if his government announced that there was going to be and had to be a

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14. Few if any Soviet workers at Plant No. 2 could afford to own a radio set. Every apartment in Upravlencheskiy was equipped with a loud speaker network outlet. These were presumably used by most families there. However, all of the leading Soviet engineers and managerial personnel owned large radio sets equipped to pick up short-wave broadcasts.

15. Evidently many of these radio owners listened to news broadcasts from the West, as they were often familiar with events not publicized in the Soviet press. For example, they knew of the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, the atom bomb explosion in the USSR, and statement that all Germans had been repatriated from the Soviet Union before this information was disseminated by Soviet information media.

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most Soviets

spoke openly only in the presence of a small circle of trusted friends.

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